28. Needs of the Ezhava Community.

MR. KUNJUKRISHNAN VAIDYAN (*Member, Nominated*) spoke of the disabilities of Ezhavas in the matter of recruitment to the public service and of access to public places under the Government. He felt the absence of Ezhavas in the public offices in North Travancore more keenly than the inadequate representation of the community in the higher ranks. At least one Ezhava should be appointed in each of those offices. Though there were many public offices at Parur, the only Ezhava employee was a solitary clerk in the Sub-Registrar's office. They were not appointed even as peons. It was true that the Government took measures to ensure adequate representation of Ezhavas in service, but they were not quite fruitful.

The member next referred to the inadequate representation of the Ezhava community on the Legislative Council, the Popular Assembly, and the Municipal Councils and to the fewness of Ezhavas holding honorary appointments *e. g.*, as Panchayat Court Judges, Bench Magistrates etc.

Finally, he prayed that all roads etc. belonging to Government and admitted to be public and used even by non-Hindus should be declared open to Ezhavas etc. by means of a Proclamation. Government should themselves help towards the removal of this grievance. The member said that free access was denied on a road leading to the Parur bazaar and landing place from the local Cutcherry road and on the roads running south from near the eastern gate of the Cutcherry premises. He requested that at least those roads might be thrown open at once.

DEWAN: I shall hear Mr. Krishnan Asan also before I reply.

---

29. Needs of the Ezhava Community.

MR. S. KRISHNAN ASAN (*Member, Nominated*) said that, unless a member of the Ezhava community was also on the Staff Selection Board, the chances of the community receiving adequate representation in the services were uncertain. The statistics relating to Ezhavas in service, furnished in reply to interpellations in the Legislative Council, showed how inadequately the declared policy of the Government in the matter of recruitment of Ezhavas and other educationally backward communities to the public service had been carried out. It was absolutely necessary to appoint an Ezhava representative to the proposed Staff Selection Board.

The member then made a vehement appeal on behalf of the Misradaya community who, he said, did not want the Ezhava Bill. As the Bill had been finally read in Council, he refrained from discussing the merits of the provisions embodied in it. The community did not want a sudden change to *makkathayam*. The Bill did not provide adequately for the mother. Some of the provisions in the Bill were even against the tenets of Hinduism. Thousands of men and women felt keenly in the matter. The Bill had led to the creation of factions in a united community. He prayed the Government to consider those aspects and remedy the grievances of Misradayis.

The member then pleaded for the better representation of Ezhavas in the Legislative Council and the Popular Assembly and for the nomination of a sufficient number of men of all shades of opinion from the community. Separate electorates should be formed for them, and they should be appointed to all Select Committees, etc.

Schools for the teaching of religion should be established in the country. The Devaswom surplus could well be utilised for that purpose.

The economic condition of Ezhavas should be improved. Loans for industrial and trade purposes should be granted as freely as agricultural loans. Improvement of the material condition of the people would relieve the pressure on public service. Trade agents should be employed in foreign countries with a view to dispose of local produce in the best markets.

DEWAN: I will give my replies to the representations of Mr. Kunjukrishnan Vaidyan and Mr. Krishnan Asan to-morrow.

The Assembly adjourned at 5-10 P. M. to meet again the next day at 11-30 A. M.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly